

10th February 2019

Number – 1003

Riverside Weekly

We welcome you to join with us as we Worship Jesus

11:00 Bible Club at the Memorial Hall

11:00 Morning Worship – Ian Valentine

Readings:

Isaiah 6 v1-8 found 649 on page in the Old Testament

Luke 5 v1-11 found on page 58 in the New Testament

Read by Anna & Norman

Music by Ted Blackman

Sheila welcomed you at the door

Anna & Paul gave out the books

Margaret Davies & Sheila Spedding are providing refreshments

Jeanette Robinson is today's steward

God of Love, forever faithful,
through the world's inconstancy,
with the psalmist let us praise You,
trust You'll help us endlessly.
When we weaken, when we fail You,
be the strength to make us strong;
answer those who cry for justice,
help us all to conquer wrong.

song words by John Campbell

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*Do join us for tea or coffee after
the service this morning*



Church Diary

Monday 11th February

6:00–8:00 Games and Activity evening at the Memorial Hall

Tuesday 12th February

10:00 Coffee Morning by Ruabon Methodist Church at the Memorial Hall

1:00 Pastoral Meeting at the Memorial Hall

Wednesday 13th February

10:00 Prayer Group meet in the vestry — you are welcome to join us

7:30 Bible Study at Paul & Anna's, questions raised by the book of Habbakuk

Thursday 14th January

10:30 North East Wales Cytûn at Emmanuel Church, Penyffordd

3:00 After-school Drop-In at the Memorial Hall

Saturday 16th February

9:00 Circuit Prayer Breakfast — breakfast in the Buttered Crust followed by Prayer in the Memorial Hall

Sunday 17th February

11:00 All Age Communion — Rev Bob Thomas

Let's remember to give to the *Benevolent Fund* on Communion Sundays

Monday 18th February

9:30 Open the Book rehearsal at the Memorial Hall

10:30 Stewards Meeting at the Buttered Crust

2:00 Home Group at 5 Gerddi y Bache

7:30 “Book of the Month Club” at the Memorial Hall

Tuesday 19th February

10:00 Coffee Morning by Holy Cross Church at the Memorial Hall

Wednesday 20th February

10:00 Prayer Group meet in the vestry — you are welcome to join us

Thursday 21th February

3:00 After-school Drop-In at the Memorial Hall

Sunday 24th February

11:00 Morning Worship — Rev Neville Pugh

North East Wales Cytûn

The next meeting will be on Thursday 14th February at Emmanuel Church In Wales Penyffordd.

At this meeting Sarah Wheat, Diocesan Engagement Officer will talk about her project work with Housing Justice Cymru based in Wrexham which has the second highest number of rough sleepers in Wales.

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend this meeting, Elisabeth will be going if you would like to join her.

“Book of the Month” club

A book reading group reading the Bible

Led by Richard Parkes, around the circuit, the group will read a book from the bible each month and then meet to learn more about and discuss the book. **(Each months session will be repeated four times, in different places, so everyone can attend when and where it is convenient)**

Review Leviticus & Numbers — prepare Deuteronomy

Monday 18th February 7:30 at Llangollen Memorial Hall

Tuesday 19th February 2:00 at Gresford and 7:30 at Wrexham

Friday 22nd February 2:00 at Caergwrle.

More Information from Richard 01978 852742

revrparkes@btconnect.com

Church Coffee Mornings for 2019

Methodist Church	Tuesday 5 March 2019
Methodist Church	Tuesday 2 April 2019
Methodist Church	Tuesday 7 May 2019
Methodist Church	Tuesday 4 June 2019
Methodist Church	Tuesday 2 July 2019
Methodist Church	Tuesday 6 August 2019
Messy Church	Tuesday 13 August 2019
Methodist Church	Tuesday 3 September 2019
Methodist Church	Tuesday 1 October 2019
Messy Church	Tuesday 22 October 2019
Methodist Church	Tuesday 5 November 2019
Methodist Church	Tuesday 3 December 2019

Llangollen

Eisteddfod Gerddorol Ryngwladol Llangollen
Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

Invites you to our

Cymanfa Ganu St David's Day Celebration

Friday 1st March
at 7pm



St Collen's Church, Llangollen

An international take on the Welsh tradition
of communal hymn singing

£5 Programme/Ticket | Refreshments

A warm welcome to everyone! | *Croeso cynnes i bawb!*

Taking the Plunge (Based on Luke 5:1-11)

From the resource for Racial Justice Sunday

That 'beloved community' that the Jesus way invites us to be part of will take more than splashing around in the shallows. It asks of us to step out and take a plunge into the deep. Walking the Jesus way is invitation to take to the deep water, out into the fast currents and those unpredictable waters. A cause for concern is that in these troubling times our ecclesiastical communities may find it safer to play in the shallow waters. We have become so risk-averse that we have internalised protecting ourselves and our little kingdoms rather than risking all for the sake of Jesus. In this sense, our communities may end up displaying a case of functional atheism: we do not actually believe in the Jesus way of full life for all as our actions do not match what comes out from our mouths! Taking the plunge into the unknown and unpredictable waters – the deep end – is the moral test for the Church today. God is calling us to speak truth to oppressive powers. Did the prophets or the disciples ever had a majority or took a vote to see what God's will was? If we're going to be authentic to following the example of Jesus, we are going to have to speak when it may be safer to be silent; to take a stand when turning away may be the safer option; to be clear in our prophetic message. The Jesus way of light and hope amid despair means moving out into the deep waters. This remains the challenge before us all.

• Consider these two quotes and the implications for stepping out into the deep: "We will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." [Martin Luther King Jr.]; "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." [Shirley Chisholm]

The editor's jottings!

Coffee at the Memorial Hall — A big thank you to everyone who has helped over the past few weeks we have raised a total of £396.66

Church Coffee Mornings — please make a note of the church coffee mornings for the year.

Young Uns— all the best for their production this week.

Norman



Readings

Luke 5:1-11 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' 5 Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' (vs. 4-5)

Background

The calling of the disciples is recorded in perfunctory terms in Mark's gospel; the point of the narrative being that the correct response to the kingdom of God is to follow Jesus, whatever the cost.

Luke's version is far more detailed about the scenario that the early disciples were faced with. On the southern shores of Lake Galilee, near to Capernaum, Jesus took advantage of a wayside pulpit and preached from the boats owned by Simon's family of fisherfolk. Having spent the evening at sea, Simon and the rest of his firm were tired and were packing up their nets for their next sailing.

There is the sense that these fisherfolk, minding their own business fixing up their nets, were merely earwigging into what Jesus was teaching. It came as something of a surprise, then, to be asked to set sail again so soon. The instructions were naïve. During daylight hours, fisherfolk don't fish in deep water – therein lies a futile excursion. However, there must have been something compelling about Jesus at this stage because, despite the protests, Simon casts off and sets out on a daylight fishing trip.

In Mark's account, it is assumed that the disciples respond to Jesus because of his compelling charisma. In Luke's gospel, there is the opportunity to hear Jesus' teaching, there is a shared experience, and there is a miracle.

In the deep water, where there is little chance of a catch, in a boat steered by exhausted entrepreneurs, Jesus watches as the enormous haul of fish are dragged into the straining nets.

Brilliantly, Jesus uses this miracle as the vehicle to speak about the vocation of the early disciples. Although they had made their living fishing on the lake, Jesus uses the same imagery to call them into their new lives in the kingdom of God. Fisherfolk are to become fishers of people. So often we assume that our calling to follow Jesus means that we have to leave everything of our past life behind. The genius of this

passage is that these early followers did leave everything – in terms of their business – but Jesus is clear that their calling comes from their experience and identity as fisherfolk.

Discipleship isn't a reprogramming of our identity and experience, it is a re-framing of it in light of our experience of the kingdom of God in our midst.

To Ponder

How important are miracles and experiences in enabling people to meet Jesus in this passage?

What does that say to us about our missional methods today?

What parts of your vocation has Jesus built on in your own life?

Look at the resources for Racial Justice Sunday on the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website. How might you be able to use these in your worship through the rest of this week?

Bible notes author: The Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling

Circuit Prayer Meetings

1st Monday each month
Coffee Shop Prayers
10.30am in 'Honeys' Caergwre

2nd Tuesday each month
Prayer Lunch
12.30pm at Wrexham Methodist Church

3rd Saturday each month
Prayer Breakfast
9am in 'The Buttered Crust' Llangollen
followed by prayer in the Memorial Hall

4th Saturday each month
Brunch
11am in 'LOT' Wrexham

For more details contact **Deacon Lisa Rathbone**
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Stop Making Excuses

'Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.'

Romans 12:2 NLT

SOMETIMES OUR culture markets misinformation and half-truths. And since our parents grew up in that culture, they handed us the same guide for interpreting life. As a result we may have arrived at these three mistaken conclusions: 1) There's a special person out there who will make me happy. Only God can do that! Hurting people only hurt other people. 'Out of the abundance of the heart [the] mouth speaks' (Luke 6:45 NKJV). 2) When I attain a certain position or accumulate a specific amount of money, I'll be happy. That's the old 'as-soon-as' myth, and it breeds a life of discontent (see Luke 12:15). 3) I can't help it; it's just the way I am. That's the 'I'm-not-responsible' lie, and it will stop you dead in your tracks. If you want to be happy, examine the excuses you keep coming up with to justify your behaviour. Here are a few of them: 'I'm not the only one!' So what? If everybody does it, does that mean God doesn't take it seriously? Like a kind of group-sin? 'I don't see any harm in it.' And who gave you the authority to write the rules and



play God? 'I'll just try it once.' So if you just try it once, does that mean there'll be no consequences? What are the lies behind your excuses? Examine them. They're keeping you in spiritual bondage, and they must be unearthed and removed! The Bible calls this 'renewing of your mind' (Romans 12:2 NKJV). Jesus said once you know the truth, your old belief systems will be exposed and you'll be set free (see John 8:32). Imagine being free to become all God wants you to be! Isn't that worth pursuing?

Pray for freedom from any belief systems which don't line up with God's truth.

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For free daily readings see
Elisabeth or Norman

